THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) and (b) Government of India and the World Organisation jointly hosted an International Conference on "Global Tobacco Control Law: Towards a WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control" at New Delhi from 7th to 9th January, 2000. Dr. Gro Harlem Brundtland, Director General, World Health Organisation attended the Conference. During the course of her visit to India she called upon various dignitaries including the Prime Minister. She stated at the Conference that tobacco kills one person in the world every eight seconds. She expressed the opinion that if tobacco consumption remained unchecked and unregulated, tobacco would kill ten million people each year, by 2030.

The Conference considered various issues relating to tobacco control, especially from the point of view of developing countries and interalia suggested implementation of multi sectoral National Tobacco control activities and support of the Governments for implementation of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC).

(c) The Committee on Subordinate Legislation (Tenth Lok Sabha) in its 22nd Report had made several recommendations primarily intended to discourage the use of tobacco and tobacco products. Government is examining these recommendations and the draft legislation is under consideration of the Government.

Legislation to Control Tobacco Consumption

954. DR. KARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has now been established beyond doubt that smoking is extremely injurious to health, particularly among young people; and

(b) if so, what steps Government intend to take to tighten the legislation and see that it is followed in letter and spirit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH

AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Committee on Subordinate Legislation (Tenth Lok Sabha) in its 22nd Report had made several recommendations primarily intended to discourage the use of tobacco and tobacco products. The Government is examining these recommendations and a draft legislation is under consideration of the Government.

Factors Causing Tuberculosis

†1955. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA:
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item under the caption, "Desh mein her minute tapedic se ek mrityoo hoti hai, Sarvekshan Report", published in a daily Ajeet Samachar of Jalandhar;

(b) if so, what is Government's assessment in regard to authenticity of the above news-item;

(c) whether Government have ascertained the factors responsible for the deaths occurring due to tuberculosis; and

(d) if so, the percentage of these factors responsible for spreading and intensifying the disease and the schemes since introduced by Government to remove the above factors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) and (b) TB is major public health problem in India. India accounts for 20% of total TB burden. Half a million people are estimated to be dying of TB every year 1000 a day, one a minute.

(c) Important factors responsible for deaths occurring due to TB are

†Original Notice of the Question was received in Hindi.